

Wagon Wheels Communication Activity

Directions: Clear an area where students may sit on the floor or use chairs with ten students in a wheel or if the class is larger, use one large wheel with pairs of students facing each other as illustrated below; the diagram shows four members but you can expand the circle to include as many students as you want.



Procedure:

1. A statement or question is presented by the teacher (see list of possible topics). The person seated in the inside circle, with his or her back to the hub, responds to the statement by expressing his/her views and feelings for 1 minute. Time this. Then his/her partner expresses his/her feelings on the same topic for 1 minute. NOTE: The teacher must set ground rules that only the person assigned to talk can speak – the partner must remain silent.
2. Ask the members of the outer circle to rotate clock-wise two spaces so each person now has a new partner. Present a second statement or question and allow 1 minute for each person to respond.
3. Rotate outer or inner circle again so that individuals now have a third partner and continue in this manner until all topics have been discussed.
4. Reverse direction of rotation. Each person tells the partner what he/she remembers the partner saying. Repeat until all topics have been addressed.
5. Teacher then leads discussion:
 - a. Did your partner remember all of what you said?
 - b. Why was it difficult to remember?
 - c. What types of distractions made it difficult to listen only to your partner?
 - d. How could you tell if your partner was listening? What nonverbal cues did they give? Was this helpful?
 - e. What was difficult about this activity?
 - f. What did you learn about your partners? About communication?

Possible Topics for Wagon Wheels

1. Why are you interested in a career in human services and what types of jobs are you specifically interested in?
2. What did you do recently for someone else that they appreciated? How did you know they appreciated it?
3. Who is your hero or heroine? What are the qualities of this person that makes him/her your hero/heroine?